

New Officers Elected At Fall Gathering At National Grounds

Members and visitors assembled on the National Ceremonial Grounds of the Southeastern Cherokee Council in October of this year. In addition to the ceremonies conducted there was the usual Tribal Council meeting. One of the primary items of business was to complete the voting of Council Members for the next four years. Some of the voting was done by mail in votes and some by voting at the meeting itself. The various positions on the council are the following:

- 1. Principle Chief**
- 2. Vice Chief**
- 3. Tribal Secretary**
- 4. Tribal Marshall**
- 5. Leader Of Clans And Bands**
- 6. Tribal Treasurer**
- 7. Orator**
- 8. Parliamentarian**
- 9. Historian.**

The results of the tribal elections are as follows;

Principle Chief : Vivian Panther Lawson

Vice Chief : Pamela Sandusky

Tribal Secretary : Anita Pope

Tribal Treasurer : Anna Bagley

Tribal Marshall : James Black Wolf Barfield

Leader Of Clans And Bands : Jack White Eagle Shryock

Orator : Shawnee Barfield

Parliamentarian : Audrey Autumn Snow Jones

Historian : Phylis Shryock

Indian Lore Merit Badge Gerber Scout Camp summer 2014

by Lee Uwoyeni Billingsley

Anne & I were asked to help with presenting part of an Indian Lore merit badge session for summer camp. This meant that we would travel once each week to Camp Gerber, about an hour away, camp overnite, then do our presentation & return home the next day. We felt it was important to help Ian Spirit Singer as much as we could, so we agreed to do this.

The most memorable event was that it rained every week, every time we were there we had rain at various times during our stay. Except one day when we packed up our tent just in time then caught the rain on our way home. The 3rd week there were big storms, possible tornadoes in the area, and we spent the evening in the dining hall, with 750 other people in a space designed for 500. But usually, since we were presenting in a pavilion, some lite rain did not bother us. Anne did crafts with the scout, showing them how to make medicine pouches, and explaining the spirit behind it as well as the meaning of the tobacco mix we use in tobacco ties. I did a language presentation, followed by telling some stories as the scouts worked on their crafts. We did this for one morning and one afternoon merit badge session. Anne stayed after the merit badge sessions to help some adults with beadwork or finger weaving, or making rosettes.

Also in that area they were teaching American Cultures badge. The counselor of that badge, Sam, asked if I would give the scouts a little talk about Native culture. I agreed, so gave a little speech about native culture for this badge as well, at the session before the Indian Lore sessions. There is no more American culture than Native culture. I talked mostly about how Indians seem more aware of the Creator at work in the world around us. You cannot tell Indians as much by how they dress or live but more how they see the world around them.

One scout, Sean, a counselor with camp name Jutsu, offered tobacco and asked to hear stories. Since he offered tobacco I had to tell him every story I knew, even a couple that I do not tell at Indian Lore since they are too intense for younger scouts. Sean listened intently to all of them, never wrote down a word.

Another scout named Sean was the only scout at one of the sessions, so he got the guided tour of Indian Lore and the full attention of the 3 of us. Apparently he enjoyed the experience since the next week he was signed up as a counselor working in this area. Other badges they taught

here besides Indian Lore were American Cultures, American Heritage, Fishing, and Archaeology.

At one time during language session, one of the scouts asked if they could do a flag ceremony using Cherokee commands. (Halt, About Face, etc) So we worked up the commands needed for raising and lowering GADADI, flag. Unfortunately it was explained to us that the scouts who would be doing flag ceremonies were already picked for the whole week, so changing to allow for another crew to do flags was not possible. Anyway, I have the commands for a flag ceremony if anyone plans to raise a flag in Cherokee. This shows how someone teaching becomes a student as well. A teacher cannot teach without learning something themselves. Some of the scouts asked some good questions. 'Since Cherokee words for red and green have other meanings as well, how about the other colors, like blue or yellow, do they have other meanings?' was one question. The answer was that they most certainly do, but your teacher here has no idea what they would be. Another scout asked about the importance of the number seven, why it translates from Cherokee as 'holy number.' I explained that as best I could instead of telling a story for that session.

After the sessions, especially the American Culture session, the scouts came to me, shook my hand, and said 'thank you.' I was honored. I did not see scouts shaking hands with the Archaeology instructor, so maybe my speech was somewhat special for them, something a little beyond the ordinary that they were not expecting. I hope my words got them to think more about how they see the world.

All the badges taught at this station were presented in a different way, and the counselors here expected a little more from the scouts. Many scouts hung out at this station and were late getting to their next one. Ian, in charge of the station, always got top scores thru the summer for his work here, and we were glad to be part of that.

The last week of camp was spent with our troop there, and we stayed thru the week in addition to our teaching merit badge sessions. So we collected memories of a week of scout camp, of fishing, of the food, of the scouts and their badges earned. There was a scout who got up in the middle of the nite certain he was bitten by a black widow spider (that do not live in Michigan) even tho he did not have a bite mark anywhere. One day the drum was brought to flag ceremony. Another day were the inductions into Order of the Arrow, scouting's honor society they call it. We ended summer camp very tired but pleased that we seemed to have made a difference in some scouts' lives.

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